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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Shuichi MATSUMURA

Group Art Unit: 1657

Application No.: 10/523,688

Examiner: J. LILLING

Filed: February 3, 2005

Docket No.: 122627

For: ENZYMATIC DEPOLYMERIZATION PROCESS OF POLYLACTIC ACID, AND PRODUCING PROCESS OF POLYACTIC ACID USING DEPOLYMERIZATION PRODUCT

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION AND ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the February 23, 2007 Restriction and Election of Species Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects Group I, claims 1–10, and elect as a Species the following:

1. the polylactic acid is depolymerized in the presence of a hydrolase in an organic solvent;
2. the polylactic acid is poly(DL-lactic acid);
3. the hydrolase is lipase;

with traverse. At least claims 1, 5, and 9 read on the elected species. At this time, no claims appear to be generic to all species.

National stage applications filed under 35 U.S.C. §371 are subject to unity of invention practice as set forth in PCT Rule 13, and are not subject to U.S. restriction practice. *See MPEP §1893.03(d).* PCT Rule 13.1 provides that an "international application shall relate to one invention only or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept." PCT Rule 13.2 states: